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Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 01570 091654Z

64
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SCCT-01 /060 W
---------- 059879
R 091515Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8195
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL BELFAST

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 1570

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS:PFOR, PINS, EI, US
SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF BRITISH AMBASSADOR

1. DCM AND POLITICAL OFFICER MET TODAY WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEAN DONLON, SENIOR OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSING OTHER MATTERS, DONLON SAID THAT POLICE INVESTIGATION OF THE KILLING OF BRITISH AMBASSADOR EWERT-BIGGS NOW CENTERS ON 21 OR 22 HARD-CORE IRA ACTIVISTS WHO HAVE GONE UNDER GROUND EITHER IN THE REPUBLIC OR IN SOUTH ARMAGH. THE POLICE BELIEVE THAT PREPARATION AND EXECUTION OF THE BOMBING BEAR AN UNMISTAKABLE LIKENESS TO TYPES OF BOMBINGS CARRIED OUT IN THE NORTH, PARCICULARLY IN ARMAGH.
1) THE EXPLOSIVE CHARGE CAME FROM AN IRISH EXPLOSIVES FACTORY; 2) THE DETONATOR WAS OF BRITISH ORIGIN; 3) THE ELECTRICAL WIRING WAS FROM NORTHERN IRELAND. THE POLICE HAVE STILL NOT RULED OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT NORTHERN IRELAND PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY BRIAN CUBBEN WAS THE PRIME TARGET. BASED ON EVIDENCE AT HAND THE POLICE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE PERPETRATORS WERE PROVO IRA, NOT A PLINTER GROUP OR OUTSIDE PROFESSIONALS.

2. THE IRISH CABINET IS SCHEDULED TO MEET TOMORROW, AUGUST 10, TO REVIEW THE EVIDENCE UNCOVERED THUS FAR AND TO
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PAGE 02 DUBLIN 01570 091654Z

CONSIDER THE GOI'S RESPONSE. THE MOST LIKELY STEPS TO BE

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CONSIDERED ARE AN INCREASE IN JAIL SENTENCES FOR TERRORISTS AND
LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ALLOW THE POLICE TO DETAIN PERSONS FOR
UP TO SEVEN DAYS WHO MAY HAVE INFORMATION OF TERRORIST CRIMES.
THE POLICE AT PRESENT CAN HOLD A PERSON SUSPECTED FOR
CRIMINAL ACTIVITY FOR A PERIOD OF TIME BUT CANNOT DETAIN
PERSONS WHO ARE MERELY SUSPECTED OF HAVING INFORMATION
ABOUT CRIMINAL ACTIVITY. CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEMS ARISE
IN THIS LATTER CASE AND THE DAIL WILL HAVE TO BE
CALLED BACK INTO SESSION IF THE CABINET DECIDES TO
PURSUE THESE TIGHTER SECURITY MEASURES.
CURLEY

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